

Zion United Methodist Church
 612 Locust Street
 Cambridge, MD 21613

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Lent - 40 days of Preparation

Lent is a time in our church calendar that is observed by self-examination and reflection on our walk with God. Why 40 days? The number 40 holds great Biblical meaning. In Genesis, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and the whole earth was covered with water because of the wickedness of humankind. Moses fasted on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights in communion with God. The result was that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land. Elijah traveled for 40 days to reach God at Mt. Sinai. Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness where the devil would tempt him. So, the number 40 is marked as a time of fasting, self-examination and drawing closer to God.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The Ash Wednesday service is a worship service where we come to acknowledge that we are human and made of dirt. As humans, we have sinned against God. We repent before God. We are marked by the ashes in the form of a cross. These ashes are from last year's palms of Palm Sunday. The ashes are a sign of our repentance and death. The cross is a representation that we acknowledge our sin and that Jesus' death on the cross has set us free from sin and eternal death.

Although Lent is not a stated period of time that is found

in the Bible, there is evidence for the importance of observing it. After Daniel learned from reading the scroll of Jeremiah that the exile from Jerusalem would last seventy years, it says in Daniel 9:3, "So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes."

Fasting is an important spiritual discipline to observe in Lent. You may give up a meal, meat, chocolate, watching TV, or other activities that you enjoy to spend more time with God. One suggestion I would make for you to consider is if you do fast, have a jar in which you place the money that you would have spent on food, dessert, or other activities. Then donate this money to the Hattie B. Skinner Circle's Heifer project. This way, you will not only be drawing closer to God but also passing the love of God on to others.

If you are able, please join with me and others for the Ash Wednesday service on February 26 at 7pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. We will be joined by the other four United Methodist Churches in Cambridge.

My prayer is that you will be able to draw closer to God during this time of Lent.

God bless you,
 Pastor Dave

Zion UMC's Soup Days

Wednesday March 25

11:30a.m. to 12:45p.m.

Last Soup Day Before October

Serving

Chicken Noodle, Dry Lima Bean or Vegetable Beef

Eat-In: \$4.00 per meal incl. biscuits, drink. and dessert

Carry outs and delivery available

Quarts: \$8.00 includes biscuits only

(Drinks not included in carry-outs or deliveries)

Please call 410-228-4910 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. for free delivery and pick-up



If you can help with Soup Day by making deliveries, cleanup, and other tasks, contact Elaine Horseman.



Hold the Date!

Zion will be celebrating 240 years of service to God and spreading the good news of the Gospel to Cambridge and the world. On Sunday, April 19, there will be one worship service at 2:00 p.m. There will not be a 9:30 or an 11:00 worship service that day, only the 2:00 p.m. service. The other United Methodist congregations in Cambridge will be joining us for this special celebration as well as clergy from other denominations. We will have a combined choir and the Rev. Elmer Davis, our District Superintendent, will be with us to share the message. Please put the date on your calendar so that you don't miss this very special celebration!

2020 - Zion's 240th Anniversary Year

What Was Happening The Year Zion Was Formed? 240 Years Ago - March 1780

March 1– Pennsylvania became the first American state to abolish slavery.

March 29 – May 12 – American Revolutionary War: Siege of Charleston . The British, following the collapse of their northern strategy in late 1777 and their withdrawal from Philadelphia in 1778, shifted their focus to the American Southern Colonies. After approximately six weeks of siege, Major General Benjamin Lincoln, commanding the Charleston garrison, surrendered his forces to the British. It was one of the worst American defeats of the war.

March News of the 1800s

From the Cambridge Democrat and News

March 20, 1880 - The people have voted that cows are not to run at large within the town limits. It now only remains for the commissioners to pass a prohibitory ordinance and enforce it. Will they do it?

March 17, 1883 - Last Sabbath the various pulpits of Cambridge were occupied by ministers of the Wilmington Conference. The audiences were large and the good work done will be lasting. Zion M. E. Church was packed to its utmost capacity to hear the Bishop at the morning service, and during the entire session immense crowds showed their interest in the proceedings.



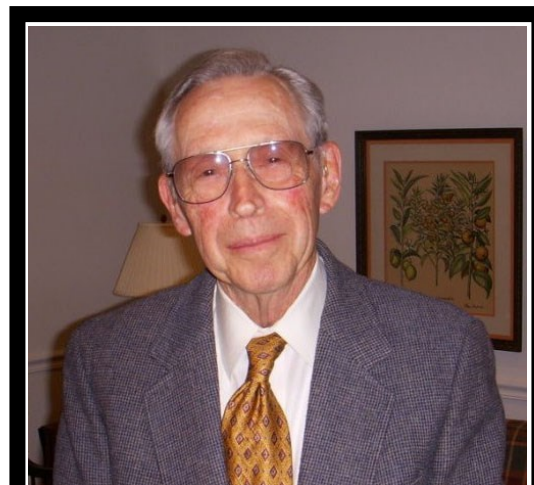
Looking northwest on Locust Street from High Street at the turn of the century

March 17, 1883 - Rev. L. C. Matlack, D.D. the new pastor of Zion M. E. Church has just finished his term as Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District. He is a gentleman of culture and has positions of prominence in the church. Entering the conference in 1840, he brings to the new pastorate an experience of more than forty years. The field of his new labors are inviting, and the church may be congratulated upon its new pastor. He will occupy the pulpit on Sunday, March 25.

March 2, 1889 - Zion Church was the scene of an interesting celebration on Monday night, the principal feature of the occasion being the burning of the mortgage on that edifice which wipes out its entire indebtedness. Rev. Alfred Smith was happy, and his congregation was joyous over the event. During Mr. Smith's pastorate here he has been instrumental in paying off \$5,600. of debt and interest, hence his great joy at the full accomplishment of the work he started out some two and one half years ago to perform.

March 21, 1896 - The Mite Society of Zion M E Church, assisted by the League, will give a "Medly Social" on Friday evening, March 27 in the Lecture Room. Admission 10 cents. Proceeds for the purpose of renovating the church. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

March 12, 1898 - There has been a great religious awakening in Cambridge this winter. St. Paul's, Zion, and Grace Churches have had most successful revivals resulting in a largely increased membership, and Christ Church will receive an addition of many members this Sunday night when Bishop Adams will hold confirmation services.



We mourn with his family and friends while celebrating the life of faithful servant Paul Winn, who went to be with the LORD on February 7, 2020.

Answer to "Do you know this family":
The Turners: (L-R) Joyce, Michael, Joe, Melvin

Directory Updates

If your address or phone number changes, please let Janel know at office@zionumccambridge.org or 410-228-4910.

HATTIE B. SKINNER CIRCLE'S 2020 LENTEN MISSION PROJECT

The Hattie B. Skinner Circle is once again sponsoring a Lenten mission project in support of Heifer International.

This Lenten season, the HBS Circle is raising money to purchase alpacas. At home in rough, mountainous areas of Latin America, alpacas are a blessing to families with limited resources. Alpacas provide invaluable sources of income and wool, which is prized for making blankets, ponchos, carpet, and rope. Alpaca fiber is almost three times warmer than sheep or any other kind of wool. They have soft feet that are gentle on the soil where they graze, so they don't damage the crops. Their soft wool can be sold at market and provide income to a struggling family.



For more information, please visit:

www.heifer.org/blog/how-its-made-alpaca-knits.html

The alpacas cost \$150 each. The HBS Circle's goal is to purchase 10.

There is a jar in the back of the sanctuary for contributions.

Please make checks payable to *The Hattie B. Skinner Circle* and note "Heifer" in the memo line.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

About Heifer International

Since 1944, Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing, and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. With help from donors over the last 75 years, they assisted, directly or indirectly, more than 34 million families. Today, they work in 20 countries. In areas where hunger and despair once prevailed, Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training, and Passing on the Gift.

Heifer International works in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty. Their staff is comprised of livestock specialists, and their programs are considered among the most successful in the world.

FINAL CLOSE-OUT! FLAVORINGS, KNIVES AND PECANS

The Eunice Sluyter Circle has cut prices once again!

Assorted Rada knives and utensils are on sale *two for \$5.00.*

ALL flavorings are on sale for *\$2.00/bottle or two bottles for \$3.00.*

Available flavors: Coconut, almond, butter, butternut, banana, black walnut, strawberry, rum, peppermint, and pineapple

Plain and dark chocolate pecans for sale, \$12 per bag.

Contact the Church Office if you would like to purchase any of these items.

Please make checks payable to *The Eunice Sluyter Circle.*

The Locust Street Church is Built



After the Great Cambridge Fire of 1910 that destroyed its building, Zion Church continued to operate and fulfill its purpose of spreading the Gospel, just without a building. On the same day as the fire, the congregation immediately made plans for Sunday School which was held that same day at 2:15 pm at the Old Auditorium Theater on Gay Street where the old City Hall now stands. Services were subsequently held at Phillips Hall on the corner of Gay and Muse Streets where the armory now stands. Phillips Hall was the temporary home of Zion's worship services until the new building was completed.

In September 1910, the Trustees of Zion purchased the lot at the corner of Locust and Mill Streets for the sum of \$10,000, and plans were begun for the new Zion M.E. Church. A part of the foundation was laid in the fall of 1910, and on July 4, 1911 under the direction of the new pastor, Rev. Clinton T. Wyatt, the cornerstone was laid by Dr. R.K. Stevenson, Presiding Elder (now called District Superintendent) with impressive ceremonies.

During the summer when weather permitted, Sunday Evening Vesper Services were held on the unfinished part of the church and piles of lumber served as seats for those who attended the services. The first service in the new Zion M. E. Church was held in the Sunday School Room on Sunday, March 24, 1912 with the pastor, Rev. Clinton T. Wyatt, preaching on the text from Nehemiah 4:6: "The people had a mind to work."

On Sunday, June 9, 1912, the first service in the sanctuary was held. Dr. John Krantz brought the message and the subscriptions rose to \$14,238. The following Sunday, June 16, 1912, the new Zion M.E. Church was dedicated with Bishop Thomas B. Neely preaching the sermon.

The cost of the new Zion M.E. Church of 1912 was \$85,000 and the final mortgage was burned March 21, 1926, during the pastorate of the Rev. William E. Habbart with Bishop William F. McDowell, officiating. While the congregation was faced with the tremendous task of raising money for the indebtedness, the church took on the obligations of the great Centenary Movement under the leadership of Dr. Walter E. Gunby, Sr., who was pastor from 1918-1923, increasing the missionary and benevolent giving by four hundred per cent.



Post card of the "new" Zion M.E. Church. Note that the education wing was a single story with a pitched roof.

Correction: In last month's article about Zion's "Old Stone Church" on Race Street, I gave the wrong location for the church. It was on the northwest side of Race Street between Gay Street and Muir Street, about where the parking lot next to Blackwater Bakery is now. Thanks to Roger Webster for the correction. Editor

Lenten Bible Study

"By His Wounds We Are Healed"

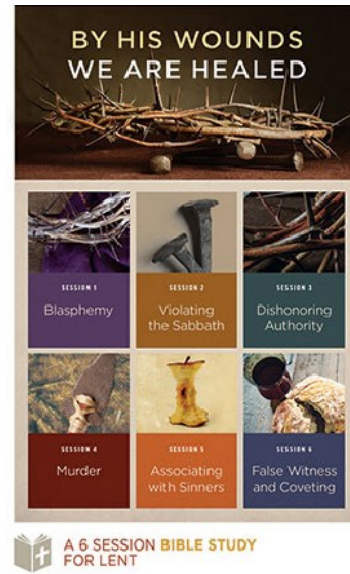
The innocent Son of God had no sins of his own for which he deserved to die, yet his enemies falsely accused him of violating every commandment of God. Each week, we see that it was our sin, our disobedience that Jesus bore in his body on the cross. The Lord laid on him "the iniquity of us all." Jesus suffered the penalty of death in our place, and "by his wounds we are healed."

Pastor Dave will lead this six-week Bible Study.

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7

Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.
March 4, 11, 18, April 1 & 8

If you would like to participate in the Lenten Bible Study, please contact Janel (410-228-4910 or office@zionumccambridge.org). A \$7.00 love offering is appreciated.



The Hattie B. Skinner Circle extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the Valentine's Day Candy & Cookie Exchange!

Whether you contributed your favorite treat or just enjoyed the treats, it was a wonderful (and delicious) time of fun and fellowship for kids of all ages! Treat boxes were also sent to our college students.

The HBS Circle will likely make this an annual event!



Do you know this family?
From Zion's 1980 Directory
(Answer inside back page)

March 2020

	Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday
7							1 9:30 am Comunion Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
14							8 9:30 am Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
21							15 9:30 am Mission Minute Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
28 9:00 am	Faith Filled Women						22 9:30 am Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
6							1 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
13							10 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Endowment Committee Meeting Bible Study 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
20							17 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
27							24 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Soup Day Prep Bible Study 9:00 am 7:00 pm
5							3 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
12 7:00 pm							10 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Endowment Committee Meeting Bible Study 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
19 1:00 pm							17 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
26 6:30 pm							24 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Soup Day Prep Bible Study 9:00 am 7:00 pm
4							3 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
11							10 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Endowment Committee Meeting Bible Study 6:00 pm 7:00 pm
18							17 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Bible Study 7:00 pm
25							24 9:00 am Good Sam. / Food Pantry Soup Day Prep Bible Study 9:00 am 7:00 pm
2							1 9:30 am Comunion Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
9							8 9:30 am Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
16							15 9:30 am Mission Minute Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
23							22 9:30 am Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship
30							29 9:30 am Praise & Prayer 11:00 am Worship

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